

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

FILED  
RICHARD W. NAGEL  
CLERK OF COURT

IN RE ORDER REQUIRING APPLE, INC.  
TO ASSIST IN THE EXECUTION OF A  
SEARCH WARRANT ISSUED BY THIS  
COURT

Case No. 3 : 15 cr 118-53  
US DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DIST OHIO  
APPLICATION WESTERN DIV DAYTON

**Filed Under Seal**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The United States of America, by and through Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney, and Alex Sistla, Assistant United States Attorney, hereby moves this Court under the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, for an order requiring Apple, Inc. (“Apple”) to assist in the execution of a federal search warrant by bypassing the lock screen of an iOS device, specifically, an Apple iPhone.

### **FACTS**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation currently has in its possession an iOS device that was seized pursuant to a search warrant issued by this Court. Based on the investigation, it was identified that the iOS device is locked. Because the iOS device is locked, law enforcement agents are not able to examine the data stored on the iOS device as commanded by the search warrant.

The iOS device is an iPhone. It has Model # A1533, FCCID BCG-E2642A, and IMEI #013888008166962.

Apple, the creator of the iOS operating system and producer of the iOS device, may be capable of retrieving data stored on the iOS device that is not currently accessible to the Federal Bureau of Investigation because the iOS device is locked. This Application seeks an order requiring Apple to use any such capability, so as to assist agents in complying with the search warrant.

### **DISCUSSION**

The All Writs Act provides that “[t]he Supreme Court and all courts established by Act of Congress may issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of their respective jurisdictions and

agreeable to the usages and principles of law.” 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a). As the Supreme Court explained, “[t]he All Writs Act is a residual source of authority to issue writs that are not otherwise covered by statute.” *Pennsylvania Bureau of Correction v. United States Marshals Service*, 474 U.S. 34, 43 (1985). “The power conferred by the Act extends, under appropriate circumstances, to persons who, though not parties to the original action or engaged in wrongdoing, are in a position to frustrate the implementation of a court order or the proper administration of justice... and encompasses even those who have not taken any affirmative action to hinder justice.” *United States v. New York Tel. Co.*, 434 U.S. 159, 174 (1977). Specifically, in *United States v. New York Tel. Co.*, the Supreme Court held that the All Writs Act permitted district courts to order a telephone company to effectuate a search warrant by installing a pen register. Under the reasoning of *New York Tel. Co.*, this Court has the authority to order Apple to use any capabilities it may have to assist in effectuating the search warrant.

The government is aware, and can represent, that in other cases, courts have ordered Apple to assist in effectuating search warrants under the authority of the All Writs Act. Additionally, Apple has complied with such orders.

The requested order would enable agents to comply with this Court’s warrant commanding that the iOS device be examined for evidence identified by the warrant. Examining the iOS device without Apple’s assistance, if it is possible at all, would require significant resources and may harm the iOS device. Moreover, the order is not likely to place any unreasonable burden on Apple.

Respectfully submitted,



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Alex Sistla, Assistant United States Attorney

Date: 9/27/15